

**WE CLAIM:**

1           1.       A stable pharmaceutical composition comprising a core, wherein the core  
2 includes rabeprazole and at least 10% w/w of low viscosity hydroxypropylcellulose.

1           2.       The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the core  
2 further comprises an antioxidant.

1           3.       The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 viscosity of the low viscosity hydroxypropylcellulose ranges from about 5 m. Pas to about  
3 300 m. Pas.

1           4.       The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the  
2 viscosity of the low viscosity hydroxypropylcellulose ranges from about 50 m. Pas to about  
3 200 m. Pas.

1           5.       The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 2, wherein  
2 antioxidant comprises one or both of butylated hydroxy toluene and butylated hydroxy  
3 anisole.

1           6.       The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5, wherein the  
2 antioxidant comprises from about 0.02% to about 0.2% by weight of the total core weight.

1           7.       The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the core  
2 further comprise polyvinylpyrrolidone.

1           8.       The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7, wherein the  
2 average molecular weight of the polyvinylpyrrolidone ranges from about 10,000 to about  
3 360,000.

1           9.       The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8, wherein the  
2 average molecular weight of polyvinylpyrrolidone ranges from about 40,000 to about 60,000.

1           10.      The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7, wherein the  
2 polyvinylpyrrolidone comprises from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the total core  
3 weight.

1           11.      The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claims 1, wherein the core  
2 is selected from the group consisting of tablet, granule and capsule.

1           12.     The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein the core  
2 is a tablet.

1           13.     The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the core  
2 is coated with a subcoat layer and an enteric coat layer.

1           14.     The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the  
2 subcoat layer comprises one or more film forming agents.

1           15.     The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14, wherein the one  
2 or more film forming agents comprises one or more of microcrystalline cellulose, carageenan,  
3 ethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methylcellulose,  
4 carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, polyethylene glycol,  
5 polyvinyl alcohol and xanthan gum.

1           16.     The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 15, wherein the  
2 film-forming agent comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

1           17.     The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the  
2 subcoat layer includes an antioxidant.

1           18.     The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein the  
2 enteric coat layer comprises one or more enteric polymers.

1           19.     The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18, wherein the  
2 enteric polymer comprises one or more of cellulose acetate phthalate, hydroxypropyl  
3 methylcellulose acetate phthalate, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, hydroxy propyl phthalate,  
4 hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose acetate succinate;  
5 and methacrylic acid copolymers.

1           20.     The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19, wherein the  
2 enteric polymer comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate.

1           21.     The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13, wherein one or  
2 more of the core, the subcoat layer, and the enteric layer further comprise pharmaceutically  
3 acceptable inert excipients.

1           22.     The stable pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, wherein the one  
2     or more pharmaceutically acceptable inert excipients are selected from the group consisting of  
3     binders, disintegrants, lubricants, glidants, diluents, plasticizers, opacifiers, and coloring  
4     agents.

1           23.     A process for preparing a stable pharmaceutical composition comprising a  
2     core, the process comprising:

3           preparing a core by

4                   (i) blending rabeprazole and a low viscosity hydroxypropylcellulose to form a  
5     blend, and

6                   one or both of (ii) granulating the blend and (iii) compressing the blend to form  
7     a compact mass core, wherein the low viscosity hydroxypropylcellulose comprises at  
8     least 10% w/w of the core.

1           24.     The process of claim 23, further comprising coating the core with one or both  
2     of a subcoat layer and an enteric coat layer.

1           25.     The process of claim 23, further comprising blending one or more antioxidants  
2     with the rabeprazole and low viscosity hydroxypropylcellulose.

1           26.     The process according to claim 25, wherein the antioxidant is adsorbed over a  
2     diluent.

1           27.     The process according to claim 23, wherein the core is selected from the group  
2     consisting of tablet, granule and pellet.

1           28.     The process according to claim 27, wherein the core comprises a tablet.

1           29.     The process according to claim 23, wherein the core is prepared by one or  
2     more of a wet granulation method, a dry granulation method, or a direct compression method.

1           30.     The process according to claim 29, wherein the core is prepared by direct  
2     compression method.

1           31.     The process according to claim 24, wherein one or both of the subcoat layer  
2     and the enteric coat layer are applied as a solution/suspension.

1           32.     The process according to claim 31, wherein the solution/suspension is prepared  
2     in solvents selected from the group consisting of methylene chloride, isopropyl alcohol,  
3     acetone, methanol, ethanol, water and mixtures thereof.

1           33.     The process according to claim 24, wherein one or both of the subcoat layer  
2     and the enteric coat layer are applied using a hot melt technique.

1           34.     The process according to claim 24, wherein one or more of the core, the  
2     subcoat layer, and the enteric coat layer contains one or more pharmaceutically acceptable  
3     inert excipients.

1           35.     The process according to claim 34, wherein the one or more pharmaceutically  
2     acceptable inert excipients is selected from the group consisting of binders, disintegrants,  
3     lubricants, glidants, diluents, plasticizers, opacifiers, and coloring agents.

1           36.     The process according to claim 24, wherein the viscosity of the low viscosity  
2     hydroxypropylcellulose ranges from about 5 m. Pas to about 300 m. Pas.

1           37.     A method of treating digestive ulcers in a mammal by administering to the  
2     mammal a stable pharmaceutical composition of rabeprazole, wherein the composition  
3     includes a core comprises rabeprazole and at least 10% w/w of low viscosity hydroxypropyl  
4     cellulose.

1           38.     The method of treating of claim 37, wherein the viscosity of the low viscosity  
2     hydroxypropylcellulose ranges from about 5 m. Pas to about 300 m. Pas.

1           39.     The method of treating of claim 37, wherein the core further comprises an  
2     antioxidant.